



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Office of the Surgeon General  
Rockville MD 20857

November 30, 2004

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to invite you to attend the *Surgeon General's Workshop on Healthy Indoor Environment*. The purpose of this Surgeon General's workshop is to enhance the understanding of the public health consequences of the non-industrial indoor environment (e.g., homes, schools, office buildings). It is my hope that this workshop will provide the public, medical community, public health community, and building design, construction, and ownership community with a better understanding of public health issues as they relate to the indoor environment.

The enclosed tentative agenda gives an idea of the broad scope of the workshop, which you can pre-register for via the internet at [www.surgeongeneral.gov](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov).

The workshop will be held at the Natcher Conference Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, on January 12 and 13, 2005. The goals and objectives of the workshop are to

- Seek collaboration throughout the public health community in reducing indoor environmentally related communicable respiratory infections, asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, and allergic diseases, and
- Gain a better understanding of public health issues and research needs on this topic.

I look forward to your participation at the *Surgeon General's Workshop on Healthy Indoor Environment*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard H. Carmona".

Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S.  
VADM, USPHS  
United States Surgeon General

Enclosure



# **Surgeon General's Workshop On Healthy Indoor Environment**

## **Preliminary Agenda**

**January 12 and 13, 2005**

**Natcher Conference Center  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland**

The Workshop will be open to the public. There is no registration fee but pre-registration is strongly encouraged as space is limited, and registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. On-site registration will be available, if space allows.

You can register for the Workshop via the internet at <http://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/library/healthybuildings/> or by calling the conference registration line between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST at (215) 569-2300 or toll free at (877) 569-2300. The deadline for pre-registration is January 7, 2005.

A government-issued identification (e.g., driver's license) is required for entry on the National Institutes of Health campus. In addition, there is very limited parking available for the public at the National Institutes of Health Bethesda campus. Therefore, it is strongly advised that people use METRO (Red Line – Medical Center station).

**Wednesday, January 12, 2005**

8:00- 8:05 AM

**Welcome & Introductions**

- RADM Robert C. Williams, P.E., DEE, US Public Health Service Chief Engineer

8:05 – 8:20 AM

**Charge and Goals**

- VADM Richard H. Carmona, MD, MPH., FACS, United States Surgeon General

8:20 – 10:00 AM

**What is the scientific evidence for health problems associated with the indoor environment?**

Overview:

- Jack Spengler, ScD, Harvard. The Akira Yamaguchi Professor of Environmental Health and Human Habitation in the School of Public Health's Department of Environmental Health

Asthma and Allergic Effects:

- Thomas A.E. Platts-Mills, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine, Division Head of Asthma and Allergic Disease, University of Virginia Health System

Non-Asthma and -Allergic Building-Related Health Effects:

- Clifford Mitchell, MD, MPH, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Michael Hodgson, MD, Department of Veterans Affairs

Building-Related Health Effects and Potential Economic Impact:

- Eileen Storey, MD, MPH, University of Connecticut, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Center for Indoor Environments and Health

10:00-10:15 AM

**Break**

10:15 – 12:00 PM

**What are the challenges to bringing about health promoting changes in indoor environments?**

- William J. Fisk, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Eileen Storey, MD, University of Connecticut, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Center for Indoor Environments and Health
- Peyton Eggleston MD, John Hopkins University
- Hal Levin, BArch, Research Architect. President of Indoor Air 2002, the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Indoor Air Quality and Climate

- James Woods, PhD, PE, The Building Diagnostics Research Institute, Inc.

12:00 – 1:00 PM

**Lunch**

1:00 – 3:30

**What are the research needs related to public health and the indoor environment?**

i) Research Needs from the National Academies, Institute of Medicine Report on Damp Indoor Spaces and Health

- Noreen Clark, PhD, Dean of Michigan University School of Public Health
- Peyton Eggleston MD, John Hopkins University

ii) Priority Research Needs for Improving the Health of Workers in Indoor Environments

- Jean Cox-Ganser, PhD. National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

iii) Energy-Related Indoor Environmental Quality Research: A Priority Agenda

- Professor Vivian Loftness, Carnegie Mellon University

iv) CDC's Agenda for Research, Training, and Outreach to Minimize Adverse Exposures in Indoor Environments

- Clive Brown, MD, MPH. National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

3:30 – 3:45 PM

**Break**

3:45 – 4:15 PM

**The importance of collaborative efforts between the building, medical and public health communities to achieve health promoting changes in indoor environments**

- Jonathan Samet, MD, MS, Professor and Chairman, Jacob I. and Irene B. Fabrikant Professor of Health, Risk, and Society, Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health
- John Girman, MS, Indoor Environments Division, EPA

4:15 – 5:00 PM

**Afternoon speakers convene for questions and discussion**

5:00 – 5:15 PM

**Wrap-up of the day's activities and overview of plans for tomorrow**

- RADM Robert C. Williams, P.E., DEE, US Public Health Service Chief Engineer

**Thursday, January 13, 2005**

- 8:00 – 8:30 PM      **Introductions and summation of the first day’s activities and today’s charge**
- RADM Robert C. Williams, P.E., DEE, US Public Health Service Chief Engineer
- 8:30 – 10:30 AM      **Federal Agency Panel, Session 1 - Review of federal research and development and outreach activities (summarizing goals, scope, and effort)**
- Jeffrey R. Holmstead, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  - Henry Falk, M.D., M.P.H., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - Samuel H. Wilson, M.D., National Institutes of Health
  - David Jacobs, Ph.D., Department of Housing and Urban Development
  - Jim Hill, Ph.D., National Council on Science and Technology
  - TBA, Department of Energy
  - TBA, General Services Administration
  - William J. Fisk, (Panel Chair) Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- 10:30 – 10:45 AM      **Break**
- 10:45 – 11:30 AM      **Federal Agency Panel, Session 2 – Members of the previous session discuss the following questions?**
1. Does this problem require a federal response?
  2. How can we improve federal response?
  3. How can federal agencies fill the identified gaps and address the limitations (e.g., health research, physical environment research)?
  4. What is the role, if any, for regulations, standards, and guidelines?
  5. How should federal agencies and non-federal organizations coordinate their activities?
  6. How could federal agencies coordinate and implement outreach and education activities?
  7. How could federal agencies address the lack of resources for research and outreach activities?
- 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM      **Lunch**

12:30 – 4:00 PM      **Vision for the Future**

Moderators: Kathleen Kreiss, MD, NIOSH, CDC and Stephen Redd, MD, NCEH, CDC  
Workshop coordinators, speakers, and pre-registered audience members discuss possible conclusions and recommendations that may appear in the Workshop Summary Report.